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recently assumed in the German Universities has compelled a more speedy completion of the book than was originally proposed. At the request of Dr. Strack, therefore, Carl Siegfried has prepared in accordance with a general outline furnished, the grammatical portion of this volume. Dr. Strack's work in the literature of the department is intended to give a general survey of the most important writings and to furnish the student a motive and basis for still further study. Only a few articles that appear in Journals have been included in the list. If the undertaking meets with favor Dr. Strack promises to enlarge this second part into a small volume. A third part which is yet to follow will contain a Chrestomathy, Vocabulary, and a list of the most important abbreviations. The preface closes with the expression of a hope that by means of this volume the study of Jewish literature, in many respects so important, which in Buxtorf's time was zealously pursued, and has produced rich fruits, may bloom into a rich and vigorous life.

BALLIN'S HEBREW GRAMMAR.*

The noteworthy feature of this grammar is the fact that the "Exercises," English into Hebrew as well as Hebrew into English, consist almost entirely of phrases and sentences taken from the Bible. This is certainly a better plan than that of manufacturing short meaningless clauses, adopted in many grammars; but it is in many respects impracticable. We do not believe that the ordinary student will be able to do satisfactory work with this grammar. The principles are stated in a confusing and disconnected manner. There is no uniformity of statement, and no continual reference, as there should be, to the great underlying laws of the language, which govern the inflection throughout. Numerous instances might be selected of faulty, misleading and even incorrect statements. One will suffice: "§ 123. In verbs having one of the letters ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, or ת in the root, those letters take *dagesh lene* when preceded by a silent *shēva*, excepting:—(a) In the construct infinitive *Kal* with the prefixes ב, כ, as בְּכַתֵּב, כְּכַתֵּב; (b) verbs with the aspirate as the third radical never take a *dagesh lene* in it, as כְּתִבִּי, כְּתִבֵּי." Here (1) the *Sh'vâ* is not silent but vocal, and (2) such a statement as (b), the only reference to this peculiarity of the Imperative, is manifestly inaccurate and insufficient.

With every sentence in the Exercises, there is given the book, chapter and verse of the Bible in which this is found. This, it seems, would be sufficient to render the Exercises, valuable though they are, of little service to the learner. It is better to place the "key" to grammatical exercises only in the hands of teachers. The typography is accurate, and the book itself is a model of beauty so far as execution and arrangement go. It is an interesting fact that it is prepared by a sister and a brother.

SEMITIC BIBLIOGRAPHY.

BEZOLD, CARL, Ueber Keilinschriften: Sammlung gemeinverstaendlicher Vortraege, herausgeg. von Rud. Virchow und Fr. von Holtzendorff. XVIII. Serie, Heft 425. Berlin: *Habel*, 1883. 8vo.

* *A Hebrew Grammar*, with Exercises selected from the Bible. By ADA S. BALLIN and F. L. BALLIN. London: C. Kegan Paul & Co., 1 Paternoster Square. 7½x5. Pp. XIV., and 509.